Sponsoring of Students/Academicians Abroad

*677. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:
PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry sponsors/sends large number of students/ academicians abroad to reputed educational institutions every year, by awarding scholarships/fellowships under the British Council Visitorship Programme and Commonwealth Scholarships/Fellowships Scheme;

(b) if so, the year-wise number of students/academicians sponsored/ send abroad under the above referred Schemes during the last five years;

(c) the number of persons belonging to SC/ST categories among them and their percentage, as compared to the total number; and

(d) whether adequate number of persons belonging to the SCs/STs are not sponsored/sent; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A limited number of students, as finally selected by the donor countries, on the basis of a list prepared by us, go abroad each year under the Commonwealth Scholarship/Fellowship Plan. With regard to the British Visitorship Programme, the British Council Divisions/ British Deputy High Commission in India directly handle the programme and approach this Ministry to obtain clearance from political/FCRA angle only.

(b) The number of students who went abroad during the last five years under Commonwealth Scholarship Scheme is given below:

Year	No. of students sent abroad
1995-96	31
1996-97	35
1997-98	18
1998-99	20
1999-2000	28

(c) Since the schemes of scholarships are drawn up by foreign countries, there is no provision for reservation for any category. Therefore, no information is compiled in this regard.

(d) Does not arise.